



Tips for Carpoolers

Establish the Driving Duties

Let there be no confusion about who is to drive and when. In some pools, one person may do all the driving. Others will prefer to rotate driving duties daily, weekly, or monthly. This way, others in the family know when they can have the car. Whichever arrangement you choose, make sure everyone knows what to expect.

Agree on a Regular Route and Timetable

Each pooler should know when to expect the car to arrive in the morning. Some poolers have reduced the number of their stops by choosing pick-up points convenient for more than one passenger. Also, establish a time and meeting place (not necessarily where the car is parked) for the trip home.

Be Punctual

Being on time is important. Others will appreciate it and so will you. Decide how long the driver should wait before leaving.

Do Not Make Side Trips

Stopping to do errands inconveniences your riders even if it is

only to buy gas. Remember, everyone is anxious to get home without delay.

Be Organized

Decide beforehand whom to call if arrangements have to be changed. Designate a reserve driver in case a back-up is needed.

Agree on the Financial Arrangements

Decide on the cost-sharing arrangements when you first get together. In some pools, payment can be based on distance travelled. In others, payment is related to public transit fares.

Keep your Car in Good Repair

If you are a carpool driver, make sure your car is clean, safe, and in good running condition.

Be Considerate of Pooling Partners

When forming your carpool, come to an agreement with your fellow poolers as to preferences for smoking or non-smoking, use of the radio, sleeping and punctuality. Resolve problems immediately, before they set in. In some pools, there may be a lot of conversation, in others, very little. Some people do not regard the pool as a social group; in others, strong ties of friendship have grown. In either case, consideration for others is the key to success.

Cooperative Effort

Common sense, dependability, courtesy and planning are important for a successful carpool. Together, they can make ride-sharing a pleasant, money-saving alternative to expensive solo driving.



Assistance to Organizations

We can provide publicity materials, technical assistance and computer facilities to organizations interested in establishing carpool programs.

Contact:

Share-A-Ride

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Ontario

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CARPOOL



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The Concept

Carpools are an effective and inexpensive solution to the problem of daily commuter transportation. Today, in Canada, more than twice as many people ride to work in carpools than in all types of public transit combined. If you're not in a carpool, maybe now is the time to give it some thought. You might be missing out on a good thing.



Community Benefits

Today, about 30% of all gasoline consumed is used for commuting — often in cars carrying only one person. Any increase in car occupancy would result in significant energy savings.* It's estimated that each new carpool saves an average of 2000 L of gasoline annually. Carpooling is also a positive way of reducing rush-hour traffic congestion, and reduces the need for, and costs of, building roads. And fewer cars on the road means less noise and air pollution.

** For example, if car occupancy on commuter trips was increased by just one percent, we would save approximately 34 million litres of gasoline per year in Ontario.*



The Savings

Your daily trip to work probably costs you more than you realize. Gas, wear-and-tear . . . it all adds up. And those costs are constantly increasing. Operating costs are directly proportional to the number of kilometres driven — tires, brakes, oil changes and tune-ups all cost more, the more you drive. Many other parts of the car also wear out or fail more quickly because of increased use.

It is reliably estimated that direct out-of-pocket expenses for servicing and maintaining a car are about equal to the cost of the gasoline used to run it.

And that's not all. There are hidden costs associated with increased use of a car. For example, the total distance travelled certainly affects its life expectancy and resale value. Insurance rates depend on whether or not it's used to drive to work, and total annual distance driven. If your car is used for daily commuting, the risk of accident is higher (especially during rush-hours), therefore you pay a higher insurance rate.

The biggest cost of all may be the need for a second car. If you ride to work with a friend, your car will be available for other uses during the day and you may find you don't need that second car. That means big savings.

People who share the driving in a carpool save on gas and maintenance costs. Those who always drive with a passenger reduce commuting expenses for both. Those who ride only as a passenger benefit from the convenience of door-to-door service.

People who carpool save in all these areas. As well, they share other benefits:

- **Reduced Driving Strain**
Driving in rush-hour traffic is a strain. By carpooling, people can avoid driving altogether, or at least reduce the amount of driving they do.
- **Use Carpooling as a Backup Arrangement**
Have you every been stuck for a ride when your car is being serviced, or when someone else wants the car? With a carpool, you always have a ride when you need it.



Legal Issues

Proper Coverage

If you drive in a carpool, you should review your liability insurance. Doubling your liability coverage will cost only a few extra dollars. Having taken that precaution, your normal coverage is sufficient — as long as you accept no payment from your passengers.

If you do accept payment from your carpool members, you must have Standard Auto Endorsement (SEF 6A), "Permission to carry passengers for compensation." This will usually cost between \$10 and \$25 per year.

Reduced Premiums

If you are a regular carpool passenger and your car is not used for commuting, your insurance rates may drop by as much as 23%. If you take turns using your cars, the reduced mileage may still qualify you for a reduced rate.

** From guidelines issued by the Insurance Bureau of Canada. Consult your agent for specific details.*



Finding a Carpool Partner

At present, a few employers have carpool programs which help their employees find potential pooling partners. But if your company doesn't offer this assistance, do it yourself. It's simple: All you have to do is advertise.

Place a notice:

- on bulletin boards at work;
- in the company newsletter;
- in your community newsletter;
- on community notice boards (in churches, shops, etc.).

Your ad should include your name, a phone number where you can be reached, the areas you are commuting from and to, and your hours of work. You should also state your preferences for driving or riding, smoking or non-smoking, etc.